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REMINISCENCES OF THE PAST.

DEVOTIONALLY INSCRIBED TO MY MOTHER

Softly falls the golden sunshine,
Pure and bright as when it fell,
On that dreary winter morning,
When I bade my home farewell.

When I left the dear old homestead,
Left its warm and sheltering fold,
Ah, I knew not how I loved it—
Little thought the world so cold.

I can feel the gentle pressure
Of my mother's hand 'en now,
As she laid it with her blessing,
On my smooth but troubled brow.

I can see the tear drop stealing
Down my father's care-worn cheek,
As he struggled, oh! how vainly,
With the words he could not speak.

I can see my gentle brother,
As he stood beside me there,
With the yellow sunshine falling
On his wavy golden hair.

Ah, the green grass waveth softly
O'er that brother's head to-day,
For he died—and like the spring flowers,
Withered in his life's young May.

Yet in my dreams we dwell together,
As I see them as of yore;
But ah! my waking vision
Will behold them all no more.

Then, oh Father, may I meet them;
Meet them all to part no more!

Ekiz.

Greenwood Lodge, March 3d, 1864.

Important Recent News.—We publish this morning the resolutions, under the above caption, as introduced by Mr. Wright, of Georgia, in the Confederate House of Representatives, a few days since. These are, by far, the most important that have been submitted to the consideration of Congress, and if there be wisdom and foresight among those to who it is entrusted, the destiny of this country, they will be wisely adapted, at an early day, with a unanimity rarely witnessed in these days of dissension and needless wrangling. The idea that the gentle and forcible war can be brought to a close by fighting alone, is a transparently absurd, that the only way for it is that the king may ever indulged such an illusion. Without invoking the arms of diplomacy, we might fight until doomday and yet be no nearer a peace than at the moment. The preamble and resolutions are wholly unobjectionable, and, though brief, they cover all the ground that is needful to be occupied by or more of this description. We will deal with the enemy only on the basis of our recognition as independent States, and we will, therefore, not be humiliated, even though no good results should follow the passage of these resolutions through Congress. It should be our business and pride to hold aloft the olive branch to our inviolable foe, and thus put ourselves in sympathy with the anti-war party at the North, thereby facilitating the overthrow of the Black Republican party.—*Selma Rep.*

The Currency, Tax and Military Bills.

Both houses of Congress have passed the tax, currency and military bills, which now await the signature of the President:

The currency bill provides that holders of the non-interest bearing notes over \$5 will be allowed until the 1st of April east of the Mississippi river, and till July 1st west of that river, to fund in 20 year bonds at 4 per cent. All notes not funded or paid to the Government in taxes within the time, will be taxed 33 1/3 per cent, and will be fundable till the 1st January next. After that time, they will be taxed 100 per cent. The \$100 notes not presented within the time specified, will no longer be receivable for public dues, and will be taxed 10 per cent per month in addition to the 33 1/3. The present issue of notes will continue till the 1st of April, after which the new issue authorized will be made to be kept within reasonable limits. Six per cent bonds, to the amount of five hundred millions of dollars, may be issued and sold to raise money to pay the expenses of the Government.

The tax bill levies 5 per cent tax on most of the real, personal and mixed property, stock, bank bills, and solvent credits; 10 to 20 per cent on incomes, profits, &c.

The military bill declares all between 17 and 50 in the service during the war. All between 18 and 45 now in service, shall remain under existing organizations and officers. All between 17 and 18 and 45 and 50 shall be subject to the draft.

Protest, hospital and conscript guard duty will be performed by men between 18 and 45 who are unfit for the field. The exemptions are: all unfit for the field, members and officers of Congress and the State Legislatures, and the other Confederate and State officers, preachers regularly employed as such, the editor of each newspaper now published, and such employees as are indispensable, one apothecary in each drug store doing business the 10th of October, 1862; physicians over 35 years, who have been seven years in the practice; presidents, teachers of college and schools, which have been taught for two years and have 20 students; one person on a farm of 15 field hands, who is to give bond and security that he will deliver to the Government 100 pounds of bacon and beef for every hand and sell all of his surplus at the schedule rates; officers of railroads as heretofore reported; and the President and Secretary of War are authorized to grant exemptions as heretofore reported.

"When I am in pecuniary difficulties," said a pensive bankrupt, "my garden, my flowers, all fresh and sparkling in the morning, console my heart." "Indeed?" asked his sympathizing friend, "I should have thought they would remind you of your trouble, for, like your bills, they are all over due."

An elderly gentleman, travelling in a stage-coach, was amused by a constant fire of words, between two ladies. One of them, at last, kindly inquired if their conversation did not make his head ache, when he answered with a great deal of naivete, "No ma'am, I've been married twenty-eight years."

RETALIATION.—Two of the Federal officers in Libby Prison have been selected as hostages and placed at hard labor, in retaliation for two Confederate officers, who had been tried by court-martial, by order of General Burnside, and condemned to be shot. The Richmond Examiner of a late date has the subjoined particulars of this and another case of retaliation:

In the summer of 1863, Wm. Waller, and Shulte Leach, two Kentuckians, and both connected in their State, were commissioned and sent from Abingdon, Va., into Kentucky to recruit a company for the Confederate service. They were captured at Marysville, tried under order No. 88 of Burnside the harrier, (the same under which two other recruiting officers had been condemned and shot), convicted, and sentenced to die at the next point. Their sentence was subsequently commuted to hard labor with ball and chain during the continuance of the war. They are now at Johnson's Island, working out the terms of their sentence. These facts were laid before the Confederate Government by the members of the Kentucky delegation, now in Congress, and on Friday, Major Turner, commandant at the Libby Prison post, received an order from the Secretary of War, consigning two of the Federal prisoners, with the rank of captain, to a situation identical with that of Messrs. Waller and Leach.

Major Webster, of Gen. Morgan's command, and one of the officers detained in the Ohio Penitentiary, recently wrote a letter to some person in the Confederacy, in which he took the high ground that, no matter whether they suffered a life long imprisonment or died in prison, the Confederate Government should preserve its integrity, principle, and never recognize negroes as soldiers and prisoners of war. For this expression of his sentiments Major Webster was placed in solitary confinement in a dark cell, and subjected to other indignities. This coming to the knowledge of Gen. Morgan, he communicated the fact to the Confederate Government, and an order has been issued, commanding Major White, the member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, now held a prisoner at Salisbury, North Carolina, as hostage for the humane treatment of Major Webster.

YANKES TO BE MADE SLAVES.—The Richmond Whig, having been charged with saying that slavery has "stabbed itself to death," indignantly denies the accusation, and says:

"So far from believing that slavery must die, we have long held the opinion that it is the normal and only humane relation which labor can sustain towards capital. When this war is over, we shall urge that every Yankee, who ventures to put foot on Southern soil, shall be made a slave for life, and wear an iron collar as a badge of inferiority to the African."

Mr. Day advertises the loss of his dog; Brown hopes he will succeed in finding him; for if "every dog has his day," he doesn't see why every Day should not have his dog.

A young man who has recently taken a wife says he did not find it half so hard to get married as he did to get the furniture.